

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The claims have been amended to obviate the Examiner's objections to the dependency of claims 4, 5, 9 and 10.

More specifically, claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten as new claims 12 and 13, both dependent on claim 6, while claims 9 and 10 have been made dependent on claim 6 and claim 3, respectively.

The Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection to the claim dependency in view of the changes which have been made.

The claims have also been amended to emphasize novel and patentable aspects of the applicants' invention. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's Section 102(e) and Section 102(b) rejections as set out in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the action is requested.

More specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Signon Anni et al. (U.S. 3,445,450). Of these claims, claims 1, 3 and 6 are presented in independent form and each of these claims has been amended to emphasize differences over the Signon Anni et al. disclosure.

Firstly, with respect to claim 1, it is noted that the Signon Anni et al. patent is not really concerned with printing at all, but rather describes the conventional dyeing of textiles wherein dyeing is accomplished with a dye bath. Signon Anni et al. briefly discloses printing on a substrate. However, the substrate is a textile and the printing is certainly not ink jet printing. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the composition is applied to the substrate by means of an ink jet printer. This should be sufficient to differentiate claim 1, and the claim dependent thereon (claim 2) from Signon Anni et al.

The applicants' other independent claims (claims 3 and 6) have been amended so as to disclaim the reactive groups disclosed in Signon Anni et al. at Column 1, lines 18-22. Such groups are essential features of the compounds in Signon Anni et al. since they are reactive groups which are necessary for the compounds to be useful for dyeing textiles. However, for ink jet printing, the reactive groups would lead to problems with storage stability. Signon Anni et al. lies in a completely unrelated art to ink jet printing and, therefore, cannot be regarded as relevant to the issue of obviousness.

All of the applicants' other claims depend on either claim 3 or claim 6. Hence the above-noted distinctions over Signon Anni et al. apply to all of the applicants'

claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1-10 (now claims 1-3, 6-10, 12 and 13) is in order and is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 6-9 as anticipated by Karel et al. (U.S. 3,546,202) is also requested. Like Signon Anni et al., the Karel et al. patent lies in a technical field unrelated to ink jet printing. Furthermore, compounds disclosed in Karel et al. have been excluded from applicants' claims 6-9, as amended, by specifying that each A group is different (i.e. the applicants' compounds of Formula 1 are unsymmetrical). In contrast, all of the compounds disclosed in Karel et al. are symmetrical (i.e. each A group is the same). Basis for this amendment is to be found in the applicants' disclosure on page 3, lines 1-2 and in all of the examples. Accordingly, claims 6-9 are not anticipated by Karel et al. It is also noted that claims 6-9 define subject matter which is not in any sense obvious from Karel et al.

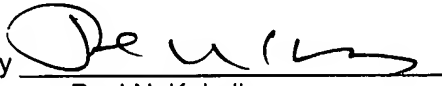
The Examiner is also requested to reconsider the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 1-11 based on Popat et al. (U.S. Patent 7,056,376). This patent is not properly citable against the present case under Section 102(e) because the Popat et al. patent and the present application were owned by the same party as of the date of the present invention. It is also noted that the effective filing date of Popat for reference purposes is not before the priority date of the present application.

The foregoing should be dispositive of all the issues raised by the Examiner's action. However, it is noted that the claims have also been amended to take account of the disclosures in two other documents which have previously been made of record by the applicants, i.e. U.S. Patent 3,527,749 and JP 59-075965A (see applicants' PTO-1449 filed on December 1, 2004). In particular, the compounds disclosed in U.S. 3,527,749, in Examples III and Example IV therein, have been disclaimed from claim 6. Furthermore, each of the independent claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended to restrict the compound of Formula 1 to a disazo compound (i.e. meaning that it contains only two azo groups). Basis for this amendment is clear from the application (e.g. the title of the application, the fact that Formula 1 contains only 2 azo groups and the fact that all of the examples in the application are of disazo compounds). This amendment distinguishes over the disclosure in JP 59-075965A, which discloses only tetra azo compounds (i.e. compounds having 4 azo groups).

Favorable reconsideration with allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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